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with advantage by adding to the enumeration of different classes of sources some discussion of their relative importance. Mr. Schouler is a hearty believer in personal research, and in the paper on "Historical Industries" he makes a vigorous plea for the individual historian as against the formidable rival of his work, the co-operative history.

Soon after the Lenox Library acquired George Bancroft's collection of books and transcripts Mr. Schouler found there, in the copy of Polk's voluminous diary, the material for two fresh and instructive studies of his administration. One rises from their perusal with the conviction that Polk was a man of greater strength and fewer scruples than he has commonly been credited with, and that in tenacity of purpose "Young Hickory" came little short of his namesake and mentor.

The second part of this volume is devoted to a sketch of Mr. Schouler's life made up from material furnished by himself. The simple and interesting fragments of autobiography interspersed here and there make one wish that it had all been in that form. In the earlier part many glimpses are given of General William Schouler, the independent and vigorous editor of the *Boston Atlas*, and later, the energetic Adjutant-General of Massachusetts during the Civil War. Both father and son appear in thoroughly attractive light in this narrative, and many among the thousands of students of history and law who have received instruction from Mr. Schouler's works will welcome this confidential introduction to his personality. To their respect for the scholar will be added attachment to the man.

EDWARD G. BOURNE.

The History of Mankind. By Professor FRIEDRICH RATZEL. Translated from the second German edition, by A. J. Butler, M. A. (London and New York: The Macmillan Co. 1896. Pp. xxiv, 486.)

SINCE the publication of the first edition of this work in Germany in 1885 it has held the position of the most popular manual in its particular field, that of ethnography, or the description of the culture of existing tribes and peoples. The title borne by the present volume, *The History of Mankind*, does not express this, and is scarcely justified by the method adopted by the author and set forth in his first chapter, that of studying present conditions through their historic developments.

The first volume of the translation here presented contains two books, the first the general introduction, the second embracing three chapters devoted respectively to the races of Oceanica, the Australians and the Malays. The latter he includes under the general rubric, "The American-Pacific group of races." These two divisions may be examined separately.

The introductory book is devoted to "The Principles of Ethnography." After a brief exposition of the number and geographical locations of the human "race," and a reference to the position of natural "races,"

the rise and spread of civilization are discussed. As will be seen by this statement, the author employs the word *race* in different senses, and does not clearly define its scope. By "natural" *rac*es he explains that he means those "more dependent on nature" than civilized peoples, borrowing the term apparently from Waitz but not mentioning him. In the same paragraph (p. 14), he adds that civilized men "are more dependent on Nature than any former generations." This is well calculated to confuse the reader who is not versed in ethnologic subtleties.

The elements of ethnography he presents as the language, religion, arts, family relations and government of peoples; and to each of these he gives a section, setting forth the method with reference to it which he proposes to adopt. Each language is regarded "as a special organism with a development of its own." Both copiousness and deficiency in a language alike spring from immaturity (p. 35). The subtler view of language set forth by Wilhelm von Humboldt, that it is a powerful instrument in moulding the mind of the people who speak it, is not considered. Concerning religion the author writes, "Religion is everywhere connected with man's craving for causality." In this he follows Peschel and various older ethnographers, although it is certainly obvious enough that if there is any department of reasoning where the doctrine of causality is sedulously ignored it is precisely in religion. Fetishism (p. 44) is described as meaning the connection of "countless tribes of souls" with various articles. This is a common error of those who claim the worship of souls as the primitive form of religion. In fact, the fetish is as often believed to be inspired by independent spirits as by those who have passed through human life.

Passing from these general considerations to the special treatment, each of the "races" above mentioned is considered in the light of the general principles named. The author expends considerable space in defending a supposed close relationship between the Polynesians and the Americans. The identities he mentions are: That both were in the stone age; that neither knew the treatment of iron (not-surprising in Polynesia!); that there is a similarity of color (?); that in both districts the skull forms are variable (equally true of the Aryan stock); that their religions are alike (not more so than to early classical models); and that mother-right exists in America, and although it does not in Polynesia it must have been there once and "broken down!" (p. 151.) The extraordinary weakness of all this is too apparent to need further comment.

When the author escapes from this theorizing and gives objective descriptions of the armor, tattooing, habitations, arts, social conditions, theories of relationship, calendars and so on, he draws from the best authorities and presents clear and accurate pictures, carefully copied from life. He has a kindly tendency to bring to the front that which is favorable and which indicates a growth into higher developments of life. There are in every social condition elements of degeneration, just as there are in every human body; but while it is right not to lose sight of these in a general estimate, unquestionably our chief attention should be

directed to those elements which indicate the capacity of progress and its realization.

The chapter on the Australians represents them as a people who have deteriorated from a better condition of existence, owing to the constant struggle for life which confronts them. This is a charitable inference, but has no positive foundation. There are no remains in their extensive territory which suggest that their ancestors stood on any higher plane of culture. Their religion, which is quoted in evidence, appears superior only because most writers studiously undervalue the religious capacity of the lower races.

In speaking of the Malay race, the author expresses positively the view that its members and the Polynesian group belong to one stock, "in respect of bodily characteristics and language;" thus discarding the dreams of Judge Fornander and some later ethnographers, that the Polynesians should be considered allied to the white race. The Malays themselves he believes, in spite of their striking somatologic identities, to be a stock of extremely mixed descent.

The translator, Mr. Butler, has taken pains to make his rendering not only accurate, but readable. He has allowed himself various liberties with the spelling of geographical names and defends this in his preface. Such variations are confusing and to be deplored, and emphasize again the desirability of an international geographical committee to frame a standard orthography for such terms, which may be generally adopted.

The illustrations in the text are numerous and good. They represent the physical appearances of the natives from photographs, and their accuracy therefore may be depended upon. Many of the cuts show art designs, armor, dress, mythological objects, boats, agricultural implements, etc. There are nine full-page colored illustrations of a similar character, extracted from trustworthy sources. A colored ethnographic map of the island world indicates the position of the tribes mentioned in the text. When it is added that the type is clear and the paper excellent, no one will doubt that the volume presents an attractive appearance.

It is intended for popular instruction and is well suited to that purpose. The specialist will find in its pages much which he will be glad to have collated in commodious form; and though the author gives no references to his authorities, this will probably render his pages all the more agreeable to the public for which they are intended.

D. G. BRINTON.

A History of Egypt. Vol. II. The XVIIth and XVIIIth Dynasties. By W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE, D.C.L., LL.D., Edwards Professor of Egyptology in University College, London. (London: Methuen and Co. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1896. Pp. xvi, 353.)

THE materials upon which a history of Egypt must be based are almost exclusively monumental. This fact must be especially born in